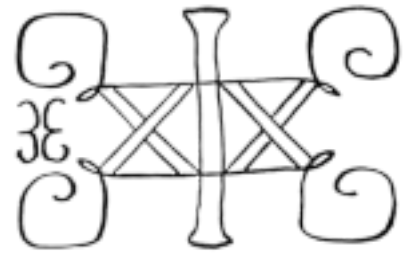


Considerations for Inviting Indigenous Presenters



Guiding Principles

1. Know your own culture.
2. Assume goodwill and learn from mistakes.
3. Ask with genuine intent and listen attentively.
4. Accept “no” gracefully.
5. Embrace partnership and reciprocity.
6. Allow the time needed for authentic growth.

Before the visit:

1. Allow time
 - a. Make arrangements well in advance to allow your presenter to consider your proposal.
 - b. It is important to negotiate rather than impose a program. Be flexible – you will need to accommodate their existing commitments.
2. **Offer Compensation for Presenters**
 - a. It is respectful to offer the presenter payment for sharing their cultural knowledge. Not all will wish to charge, but offering demonstrates understanding and valuing of their cultural knowledge.
 - b. Some presenters may have a set rate of pay and others may need help deciding on a pay rate.
3. Payment for out-of-pocket costs should always be made. You will need to negotiate matters such as transport to and from school, meals, and payment for materials provided as well as remuneration for your presenter’s time.
4. Consult with the presenter about key elements of the experience
 - a. group size, location, and any materials required.
 - b. Who will greet and stay with the presenter during their time with you?
 - c. Timeframe of visit (schedule)
 - d. Can photos be taken? Ask ahead of time, not during the presentation.
 - e. Can students join in singing or drumming? Ask ahead of time, not during the presentation.
 - f. Can this be shared with the school & community?
5. Help teachers prepare students for the visit.
 - a. vocabulary to use, help students with pronunciations
 - b. background of Nations
 - c. Help students develop appropriate questions to ask

During the visit:

1. Take care of the presenter’s needs
2. Offer your presenter the same respect and courtesy as any other teacher.

3. Ensure that the environment is comfortable and appropriate.
4. Presenters may wish to bring a friend or relative for company or assistance, particularly on their first visit at the school. This should be encouraged, as it supports the presenter during their visit.

After the presenter's session(s)

1. Thank the presenter
 - a. To demonstrate an appreciation of the knowledge shared, students should be invited to thank the presenter.
 - b. A thank-you card and/or gift after the session may be presented.
 - c. Do not allow students to rush away after a session, leaving the presenter alone. It is polite to help gather up materials and equipment and see the presenter off the school grounds.
2. Schedule the next visit
 - a. If a follow-up session is required, make the arrangements immediately, and make contact to confirm the date and time a few days before the next visit.
 - b. Share student work
 - c. Invite the presenter back to the school for any public sharing of relevant student work.
 - d. Other community members may also enjoy visiting showcases of learning and knowledge gained through the shared experiences, such as an exhibition, public expo or drama performance.

Here are some additional resources and links that can provide more guidance and information on inviting Indigenous presenters to speak at schools and ensuring a respectful and culturally sensitive approach:

[Considerations When Working with Indigenous Communities](#)

[How to Talk about Native Nations: A Guide](#)

[Native American Pedagogies | Denver](#)

[Teachers: How To Successfully Welcome a Native Educator Into Your Classroom - Confluence Project](#)



Please note that while these resources can be valuable in promoting cultural sensitivity and respect when inviting Indigenous presenters, it's essential to engage directly with local Indigenous communities and individuals to ensure that specific protocols and guidelines are followed, as practices may vary among different Indigenous nations and groups. Additionally, staying informed about the most current resources and guidelines is important, as best practices may evolve over time.

Updated: September 2024